

CLAIMS

1. A method for selecting a signal from a plurality of signals received by a component in an AV system comprising :
 - 5 - adding (106) an identifier to a signal in dependence on the signal being generated by an active first component;
 - sending (108) the signal from the active first component;
 - receiving (110) a plurality of signals at a second component;
 - for each signal of the plurality of received signals:
 - 10 o analysing (112) the signal for the presence of the identifier; and
 - o where the identifier is present determining (116) and storing at least one parameter associated with the identifier;
 - and
 - selecting (124) a signal from the plurality of received signals in
15 dependence on stored ones of the parameters.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identifier comprises at least one frequency component in the range 20kHz to 500kHz.
- 20 3. A method as claimed in claim 2 wherein the identifier comprises a frequency component of 22kHz.
4. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the at least one parameter comprises a value related to the time of commencement of the first
25 component becoming active and where the signal is selected based on the most recent time of commencement.
5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising, prior to the step of receiving, the step:
 - 30 - communicating (109) to other components of the system a relevant parameter associated with the identifier;prior to the step of selecting, the step:

- acquiring (123) the relevant parameter at the second component; and wherein the step of selecting a signal from the plurality of received signals is on the basis of a comparison of stored ones of the parameters and the relevant parameter.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the at least one parameter comprises a component address.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6 wherein the relevant parameter
10 comprises the component address of the active first component.

8. A method as claimed in claim 6 or 7 wherein the component addresses conform to the Project50 standard.

15 9. An AV system comprising at least a first component (202, 204) connected to a second component (206) by a connection means, wherein the first component is operable to:

- add an identifier to a signal in dependence on the first component being active;

20 - send the signal to the second component;

and wherein the second component is operable to:

- receive from at least one first component a plurality of signals;

- for each signal of the plurality of received signals:

25 ○ analyse the signal for the presence of the identifier; and

○ where the identifier is present determine and store at least one parameter associated with the identifier;

and

- select a signal from the plurality of received signals in dependence on stored ones of the parameters.

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10. An AV system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the first component is further operable to:

- communicate to other components of the system a relevant parameter associated with the identifier;

and wherein the second component is operable to:

- acquire the relevant parameter at the second component; and

5 wherein the step of selecting a signal from the plurality of received signals is on the basis of a comparison of stored ones of the parameters and the relevant parameter.

11. A system as claimed in claim 9 or 10, wherein the connection means
10 supports the sending of analogue AV signals.

12. A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein analogue AV signals comprise analogue audio via phono connector.

15 13. A system as claimed in any of claims 10 to 12, wherein the connection means comprises a bus (350) to support the communication of the relevant parameter.

14. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the bus is Scart/HDMI
20 supporting Project50/CEC protocols.

15. A system as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the identifier is communicated using the user data bits of the SP/DIF protocol.

25 16. A first component (400) for use in the system of any of claims 9 to 15 comprising:

- a user interface (402) operable to receive user commands;
- a source (406) of AV signals;
- an output device (410) operable to:
 - 30 o add an identifier to at least one of the AV signals;
 - o output the AV signals;
- a processor (414) operable to:

- instruct the output device to add the identifier in dependence on the first component being active.

17. A component as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

- 5 - a control interface (418) operable to send a relevant parameter associated with the identifier;

and wherein the processor (414) is further operable to:

- instruct the control interface to send a relevant parameter associated with the identifier.

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18. A second component (500) for use in the system of any of claims 9 to 15 comprising:

- a switching matrix (502) operable to:

- receive a plurality of signals;
- 15 ○ select at least one of the signals;
- output the at least one selected AV signals;

- a store (510);

- a processor (512) operable to:

- analyse each signal of the plurality of received signals for the presence of an identifier;
- 20 ○ where an identifier is present, determine and store at least one parameter associated with the identifier;
- instruct the switching matrix to select a signal in dependence on the stored parameters.

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19. A component as claimed in claim 18 further comprising:

- a control interface (516) operable to receive a relevant parameter associated with the identifier;

and wherein the processor (512) is further operable to:

- 30 ○ instruct the switching matrix to select a signal from the plurality of received signals on the basis of a comparison of the stored parameters and the relevant parameter.

20. A component as claimed in claim 16 or 17 and claim 18 or 19.
21. A component as claimed in any of claims 17, 19 or 20 wherein the
5 control interface supports the Project50/CEC protocol.
22. A component as claimed in claim 19, wherein the received signals are
digital audio encoded using the SP/DIF protocol and the identifier is
communicated using the user data bits of the SP/DIF protocol.
- 10 23. A record carrier comprising software operable to carry out the method of
any of claims 1 to 8.
24. A software utility configured for carrying out the method steps as
15 claimed in any of claims 1 to 8.
25. A component including a processor, said processor being directed in its
operations by a software utility as claimed in claim 24.